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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SEP 13 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: Dr. Leo SZILARD

1. [redacted] has submitted the following information, said to be based on local gossip in Hungary, concerning the above Subject.

Leo SZILARD was born at Gyor, Hungary, about 1895. In 1917 he entered the Budapest Technical University, where he studied constructional engineering. During the period of the Hungarian Soviet Republic in 1918, he was reportedly a member of a band of Communist terrorists created by Tibor SAMUELLI, Commissar for the Interior. It is said that SAMUELLI was a very bloodthirsty man and that this band carried out punitive expeditions wherever opposition to the regime was raised and people were hanged at the slightest provocation.

2. Information in the files of [redacted] CIA reflects the following:

In 1947 Subject applied for a passport for the purpose of attending a convention of the World Federation of Scientific Workers [redacted]

[redacted] Subject's [redacted] passport [redacted] refused by the State Department. It has been reported that while Subject was believed to be loyal to the United States, he was a security problem to the Manhattan Engineering District and to the Atomic Energy Commission because of his disregard of security regulations. He has long been one of the leaders in a movement for free interchange of scientific information. Although it is reported that he is not known to be a follower of the Communist Party line, he has many friends of questionable loyalty.

Between 5 and 12 September 1947 Subject, [redacted] was scheduled to leave the United States for travel [redacted]

Apparently [redacted]

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SZILARD was unable to accept an invitation from Frederic JOLIO-Curie to attend the Rutherford Memorial meeting in Paris in the fall of 1947. Subject left the United States on about 10 September 1947 via TWA.

Subject is described as 5'4" in height, of relatively heavy build, and usually well-dressed. His hair is greying with one streak much lighter than the rest. He is said to speak with a strong Hungarian accent and has a somewhat nervous manner of speech.

- // 3. It is requested that this agency be furnished with any information which you may have concerning Subject.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Assistant Director

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Distribution: The Director of Intelligence
Atomic Energy Commission

The Secretary of State

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